

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 032340Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7386

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANAGUA 2602

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HO, NU

SUBJECT: DISTURBANCES IN HONDURAS AS AS RELATED BY PRESIDENT  
SOMOZA

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2856

1. PRESIDENT SOMOZA INVITED ME TO LUNCHEON TODAY TO DISCUSS  
AT SOME LENGTH THE SITUATION IN HONDURAS WHICH HE VIEWS WITH  
CONSIDERABLE CONCERN. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED  
IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO LUNCHEON BY AN UNNAMED INDIVIDUAL FROM  
HONDURAS WHO WAS FULLY KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE CURRENT SITUATION.

2. SOMOZA SAID THAT THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 600 PEOPLE IN-  
VOLVED IN ACTIVE "REVOLT" AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT HIS  
INFORMATION WAS THAT THESE WERE BEING LED OR INFILTRATED BY 10  
OR 15 COMMUNISTS, PROBABLY FROM CUBA, AND FEDEYEEN, EITHER  
TRAINED IN, OR FROM, THE MIDDLE EAST. SOMOZA SAID THAT  
BRIDGES WERE BEING DYNAMITED, AS WERE LANDING STRIPES  
AND ROAD, AND THAT THESE "REVOLUTIONARIES" WERE APPARENTLY  
BEING SUPPLIED FROM OUTSIDE WITH WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION EITHER  
BY SEA OR BY AIR.

3. IT WILL BE NOTED THAT THE INFORMATION FURNISHED BY SOMOZA IS  
MUCH MORE SIMILAR TO PRESS REPORTS AS REPORTED IN REFTEL THAN  
ARE STATEMENTS MADE TO EMBASSY BY GW-LT. COL. BODDEN.

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4. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE SOCIAL CHRISTIANS WERE "INVOLVED" IN THIS ACTION AND THAT THEY HAD "PULLED IN" CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY. HE SAID THAT HIS LATEST INFORMATION INDICATED THAT APPROXIMATELY 45 PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED. HE FURTHER SAID THAT INFORMATION REACHING HIM INDICATED THAT PADRE CASIMIRO WAS DEAD.

5. SOMOZA WENT ON TO ELABORATE ON THE PROBLEM IN HONDURAS BY SAYING THAT WITH THE LT. COLONELS IN CONTROL, BASICALLY A SITUATION

EXISTED WHERE THE GOVERNMENT HAD "17 PRESIDENTS", AND THAT THIS MADE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN AND EXECUTED. HE SAID THAT HIS BEST ESTIMATE WAS THAT OF THE 17 LT. COLONELS, 11 WERE REASONABLY STABLE INDIVIDUALS, AND 6 WERE PERUVIAN TYPE LEFTISTS. HE SAID THAT THE ONSEJO DE DEFENSA WAS IN ALMOST CONSTANT SESSION, BUT THAT HE BELIEVED THAT OUT OF THIS CHAOTIC SITUATION THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY COME A LEADER WHO WOULD DOMINATE THE SITUATION AND BE ABLE TO RETURN ORDER TO THE COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION, LOPEZ WAS RULED OUT AS A POSSIBLE LEADER FOR VARIOUS REASONS. THAT MELGAR WAS SIMPLY NOT CAPABLE OF ASSUMING SUCH A ROLE, AND THAT A THIRD INDIVIDUAL WOULD PROBABLY EMERGE SHORTLY.

6. SOMOZA INDICATED THAT HE HAD COORDINATED THE PROBLEM OF HONDURAS WITH GUATEMALA PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AND THAT BOTH HE AND LAUGERUD WERE WATCHING THE SITUATION IN HONDURAS WITH EXTREME CAUTION.  
SHELTON

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